Multiple Choice Answers:

1. D
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. C
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. B
13. A
14. C
15. C
16. B
17. C
18. A
19. B
20. D
21. C
22. C
23. A
24. D
25. C
26. C
27. A
28. B
29. A
30. A
31. B
32. A
33. E
34. B
35. C
36. A
37. E
38. B
39. A
40. A
41. C
42. C
43. D
44. A
45. D
46. D
47. E
48. A
49. E
50. B
51. B
52. A
53. A
54. C
55. E
56. B
57. E
58. C
59. D
60. D

Essay Answers:

1. Part one: reasons the framers created a bicameral legislature: (2 points)

* Compromise at Constitutional Convention (representation of large vs. small population states).
* Compromise among competing interests/protect minority interests.
* Slow the process.
* Different types of representation/federalism.
* An intrabranch check/prevent majority tyranny.

Part two: One power given uniquely to the House of Representatives and explain (2 points)

* Initiate revenue bills.
* Choose the President when the Electoral College is deadlocked.
* Impeachment.
* Closer to the people.
* More representative of and responsive to the public/direct election to two-year terms.

Part three: One power given uniquely to the Senate and explain (2 points)

* Treaty ratification.
* Confirmation of judicial and executive appointments.
* Try impeachments, conviction, and removal from office.
* More insulated from public opinion/indirectly elected (originally).
* Longer or staggered terms.
* Reflects state interests.

2. Part One: Define entitlement program. (One point)

* Government-sponsored programs providing mandated/guaranteed/required benefits to those who meet eligibility requirements/qualifications.

Part Two: What is the primary source of revenue for the Social Security program? (One point)

payroll taxes

* wages from existing wage earners
* tax based on earned income
* targeted/earmarked taxes

Part Three: Identify one threat to the future of the Social Security program should the trends depicted in the chart above continue. (One point)

* Run out of money
* Outputs exceed inputs
* Declining reserve

Part Four: Describe one demographic trend that threatens the future of the Social Security program AND explain how it is responsible for the threat that you identified in the third bullet.

(2 points)

* more older people/ “baby boom” generation
* people living longer or greater life expectancy
* declining birth rates
* the number of workers who fund social security is decreasing, but the number of people eligible for social security is increasing
* the number of working people cannot support the large population who will soon reach the age of eligibility to receive social security
* the ratio of workers to retirees is becoming more unequal. With fewer workers, less money is being paid in, and with more retirees, more money is being paid out

Part Five: Explain how any one of the trends in the chart would change if the age of eligibility for Social Security were raised. (One point)

* if people were to work longer, less money would be paid out, and more money would be paid in. The reserve would not decline as rapidly or as much.

3. Part one: Two ways the Supreme Court is insulated from public opinion (2 points)

* Judges are appointed, not elected
* Serve life terms
* Control their own docket and set their own agenda
* Salaries cannot be reduced
* Limited access to Court proceedings

Part two: Explain how two factors work to keep the United States Supreme Court from deviating too far from public opinion (4 points)

* Ability to be overruled with new laws or constitutional amendments.
* Concern for reputation, individual and the Court as a whole.  (or concern for credibility and legitimacy of the Court.)
* Impeachment of justices
* Congressional control of Court’s jurisdiction and changing the number of justices on the Court.
* Court must follow the Constitution
* Must wait for appeal
* Stare Decisis (a legal principle by which judges are obliged to respect the precedents established by prior decisions.

4. Part One: Identify two factors that decrease presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect. (4 points)

* Media coverage. (If the president makes a wrong move and the media catches it.)
* Mis-steps by the candidate.
* Spending
* Unemployment

Part Two: Identify two factors that increase presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect. (4 points)

* Crisis. (If a Crisis is at hand, many people will look to the government for help. Example: A catastrophe like 9/11 caused an overflow in support for the president. Things could be passed very quickly in those days. People wanted something to be done.)
* Economic Status. (If the economy is down, or unemployment is high, people vote for the opposite party. They simply want the old one out. Example: Due to the economic down fall of current day, Obama was voted into office to change the unemployment and bring us out of the downward spiral of recession.